

Wakes Colne Parish Council

www.wakescolne.org

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
1ST JULY AT 7.15PM IN THE WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL,
COLCHESTER ROAD, WAKES COLNE.

2ND JULY 2009

09/86: CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & MEMBERS PRESENT.

Cllr Jim Taylor welcomed everybody to the meeting. Member present -Chairperson Cllr J Taylor, Cllr S Stratford, Cllr H Cresswell, Cllr D Dwyer, Cllr K Martin, Cllr S Hounslow & Cllr P Chillingworth & two members of the public.

09/87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None

09/88: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2009 were approved and signed by Cllr Taylor as a true record.

09/89: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda. Members of the council are subject to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI. 2007/1159) (The Revised Code) with the additional non mandatory section 12(2)

None

09/90: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

No questions were asked at this time.

09/91: EX AGENDA

Cllr Chillingworth addressed the e-mail which had been sent from Cllr Taylor about Cllr Chillingworth's position on the Planning Committee. It was noted that Cllr Chillingworth is now a substitute member on the Planning Committee and not a full member of the committee. He still needs to be extremely careful and he will declare a personal interest when it comes to the Planning Committee meeting when Vernons Road is discussed. Cllr Chillingworth spoke briefly about his position on the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group.

It was noted that a consultation was due to start on recycling especially on the recycling of food waste. Cllr Chillingworth said that if we could send comments in by September that would be very beneficial. Cllr Martin said that in the village there was confusion over which plastics could and could

not be recycled, Cllr Chillingworth notes this and said he would report back to the Task & Finish Group.

09/92: CLERKS REPORT

On matters arising from the last meeting. This report will be circulated prior to the meeting for all Councillors to read. A brief progress report was delivered by the Clerk at the meeting, this was on the matters arising from the previous month's minutes that arrived after the Clerks Report had been circulated. The following updates were available:

- ❖ **Meeting with Weeley Parish Councillors Re: Newspaper Article in conjunction with Vernons Rd** Cllr Jim Taylor advised in the month that the controversial planning application for Weeley re: travellers had been overturned by an inspector. Initially it had been turned down by Tendering DC but an inspector had overruled the decision and passed the application. Further to this development Jim, myself & Sue Chamley meet with several Cllrs from Weeley to discuss the outcome of the application. It seems that generally local councils have no real power when it comes to travellers settling in your parish. The main advice we were given was to try and "dispose of the need". It seems that the District or Borough Council work on the criteria of need and these are as follows:

- ❖ Main Bus Link
- ❖ Primary School
- ❖ Doctors
- ❖ Dentist
- ❖ Local shop
- ❖ Places of Worship

It would suggest that as long as these facilities are within a certain distance of the site the application is considered favourable. The local council look at the local area and decided that it is ok for local residents to make these journeys so what is the difference for travellers. It was suggested at the meeting that we look at the local organisation and contact them advising of the situation. It was suggested that we make as many people aware of the current situation as possible.

- ❖ **Help with funding due to the Travellers:** The clerk advised that at the present time the Council would have to self fund the extra work that the Travellers were creating.

09/93: FINANCE & EXPENDITURE

- 1) Cheques/BACS payments to be approved for payment and signed (See July payment schedule). All payments were approved
- 2) Financial Summary for June 2009. It was discussed & noted that if Vernons Road continued to cost at the current rate we would need to transfer funds from the High Interest Account sooner rather than later
- 3) Audit for 31st March 2009 – The Audit had been completed and Cllr Taylor signed off the forms
- 4) Colchester Association of Local Councils – Info letter and subscription. The Clerk spoke briefly about the organisation. It was agreed that due to the current situation with Vernons Road it may be helpful for us to subscribe and try and get as much information as possible. The Clerk noted that Cllr Hounslow volunteered to be the Representative for a year. During the discussion it was noted that Cllr Martin thought that with all the different organisations being a member of the CALC would be a duplication and would create more work for Councillors. Cllr Taylor proposed that we should become members of this organisation and it was seconded by Cllr Stratford. 5 votes for and once against.

09/94: PLANNING APPLICATIONS & RESULTS

None

09/95: HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- 1) Station Road Sign & Greene King. The Clerk reported that George Ward would be visiting the site later this week to address the situation and report back. It was also noted that the

Hazards Signs for Station Road had been approved and installation would be over the next three months

- 2) Meeting with Malcolm Dade. Cllr Taylor and the Clerk had a very good meeting with Malcolm and lots of issues were addressed. Malcolm had taken away a long list of issues that would be referred to the Rangers one of which was litter picking on Tyburn Hill. The ditches were discussed at great length with Malcolm and it was agreed that the Clerk should write again to N Percival asking for the bridge on the Bures Road to be sorted out. There was also some confusion on one area of road which had a problem and the Clerk agreed to re-visit the area and report back at the next meeting. The meeting was closed and Cllr Chillingworth tried to help with the location, it was discussed that the area could well be Cossett's land and an address would be advised in due course. The meeting was re-opened. We discussed the Salt Bins and their locations:

- ❖ Junction of Lane Rd & the A1124
- ❖ Junction of Vernons Rd & A1124
- ❖ Bures Rd near Junction with Jankes Green
- ❖ Station Rd near the Railway entrance
- ❖ Creeping Hall Rd & Church Hall Rd junction
- ❖ Spring Gardens Rd Half way up
- ❖ Bottom of Tyburns Hill

And it was also discussed that the Clerk should contact Alan Blyth and ask him to come and visit us in September and discuss the moving of the bins before the winter. It was also suggested that the Clerk put a note in the next edition of the Village Reporter encouraging the residents to use the salt bins once the winter is underway.

09/96: NEW AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Vernons Road & Further Comments & Updates- The Clerk advised that during the month Cllr Taylor, Cllr Chamley from Chappel and herself had attended a meeting in Weeley with some of it's Councillors. This meeting came about due to a ruling that had been overturned with regards to some travellers in the Parish of Weeley. The meeting was very productive and the main piece of advice that came out of the meeting was that we need to 'dispose of the need' and if we can achieve this then maybe the Traveller Site will not go ahead. It was suggested that we write to the County Council and ask what is happening with the Severalls Lane site. It was also discussed that in the Planning Policy Document it described in Paragraph 6 that the route to the school from Vernons Road would be broadly the same as from Rose Green well that is incorrect as Rose Green has a pavement and Vernons Road does not. Cllr Taylor asked what was the preferred way forward for both Councils and PRC&WC. The meeting was closed and Cllr Chillingworth advised that he had supplied Matt Thorn the Ombudsman's details for him to complain as he was appalled by the service he has received from CBC Planning Department. The Clerk explained how her dealings with the planning department had not been satisfactory and it was suggested that the Council also contact the Ombudsmen to complain. This was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Hounslow, all were in favour. It was also agreed that we would have a joint meeting on the 5th August (subject to Chapels meeting next week) to discuss the new application assuming it has been submitted. The proposed meeting (Extraordinary) was suggested so Chappel, PRC&WC and ourselves could get together to map a way forward.
- 2) Salt Bins: The Clerk advised where the current bins were located and it was agreed to get in touch with Alan Blyth and ask him to come out and help with the moving of them before the autumn
- 3) No: 2 Lower Green – Shed width of back garden: As per the Clerks Report, the shed is a permitted development.
- 4) Timberlands Farm – Buildings not used for purpose: It was discussed that the building is always locked and therefore nobody can gain access. It was discussed that the barn structure has been built far larger than was on the original planning application and it was suggested that we contact Cheryl Headford and ask her to investigate

- 5) Neighbourhood Watch & NAP Meetings – discussion: Cllr Dean Dwyer advised that he was waiting for the Neighbourhood Watch information to arrive and once he had received it he would read it and report back at the next meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Dwyer would be attending the NAP meeting which was due to be held in the Village Hall next week on the 9th July.
- 6) Bures Hamlet asking commuters to travel to Wakes Colne & Chappel Railway Station – discussion: Cllr Martin advised that a flyer had been circulated asking commuters to drive to Wakes Colne & Chappel Railway Station as an alternative to Bures Station. It was agreed that a letter should be written on behalf of the Council asking how many parking spaces are available at Bures Station and how many are taken up with people using the station. The Clerk was asked to report back at the next meeting.
- 7) New application for the vacant Cllr position – discussion: The application for the vacant position was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would get in touch asking him to contact Cllr Taylor directly for an informal chat. Cllr Taylor confirmed he would report back at the next meeting
- 8) Meeting date for August: It was agreed that due to the timings of CBC and Vernons Road the Council would have to meet in August this year. Cllr Taylor suggested that we have the meeting on our normal night which would be the 5th August. Prior to that meeting it was agreed that we would have an informal meeting with Chappel Parish Council to discuss the Vernons Road application if one had been received. It was also agreed that work could be done before the next meeting for Vernons Road if the need arose.
- 9) Cluster meetings between other Councils –White Colne PC: Cllr Taylor advised that we had had a very good meeting with White Colne Parish Council on the 15th June 2009. Lots of issues had been discussed, the main one being “Cluster Meetings” these are twice yearly and are attended by several Parish Councils, Ward, District & County Councillors and some times representatives from the EALC. Cllr Taylor had suggested that we have a reciprocal meeting in December for Chappel & White Colne to keep up to date with local issues. It was also discussed that maybe Wakes Colne Parish Council should start to “cluster” with our immediate neighbours who would include – Chappel, Mount Bures, Great Tey, Aldham and Fordham. Cllr Martin thought this would be a duplication of work as we had just agreed to attend the CALC meeting for the next year. The Clerk advised that she had mentioned it at the Clerks Forum the previous week and that it would be appearing on the next agenda for the Clerks Forum Meeting in September. The Clerk would report back after that but would find out some more information in the interim

09/97: REPORTS.

CLERKS FORUM MEETING: The Clerk reported on the meeting which she had attended on the 25th June 2009 at the Town Hall

Clerks Forum Meeting Report

As promised information from my Clerks Forum Meeting. On average we have between 13 & 17 Clerks attend this meeting on a bi-monthly basis. As I wrote in the Clerks Report I find these meetings extremely useful and informative. The speakers that attend usually give out some very good information which mostly can be brought back into Parish Life. At this meeting we had Lisa Cross (ECC) Public Rights of Way Officer taking about the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3), Anne Clarke from the National Probation Service talking about Community Payback, and most interestingly Vincent Pearce & Sally Harrington from the Planning Department in Colchester talking about the new planning website and the problems that have been occurring in recent months.

- ❖ **Lisa Cross (ECC) Public Rights of Way Officer - Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3).** Wakes Colne is part of this Scheme and in recent years Cllr Martin has done a lot of work with Lisa Cross. Basically the aim of the scheme is to give people the resources and skills to actively look after their Public Rights of Way (PRoW). The scheme is wholly funded by ECC Highways & Transportation Services. The scheme promotes local awareness of PRoW and the surrounding environment, and in addition supports local business, farmers and contractors by ensuring any work generated through the scheme is offered locally. Cllr Martin is our

Representative and if anybody would like any further information I am sure he would be happy to help, also I have an information pack at home which you can have a look at.

❖ **Anne Clarke from the National Probation Service talking about Community Payback.** I had an idea what this would involve before I arrived at the meeting, however it was a little more in-depth than I thought. Community Payback is one of the 12 Requirements in the Community Order which is part of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Magistrates and Judges can order offenders to undertake a specified number of hours. The hours can vary from 40 to 300 and in the past this has been called Community Service or Community Punishment. Anne Clarke spoke about the ways these offenders are used in the community and the main ways are for

- ❖ Graffiti removal
- ❖ Street clean ups
- ❖ Ground clearance
- ❖ Recycling projects
- ❖ Building maintenance & landscaping
- ❖ Improvements to park & community facilities
- ❖ Painting & decorating in community centres

The offenders are supervised at all times by the support workers and although the Probation Service provides the free labour the organisation are asked to provide the materials for the job. A couple of thoughts I had whilst listening was it is invaluable to be up to date on current procedures i.e. the change of name as if they are out in our community we will be aware of why and where they are and also I thought if the Village Hall need someone to decorate, put signs up clean floors etc this could be done with only a cost of materials.

❖ **Vincent Pearce & Sally Harrington from the Planning Department in Colchester.** This was a very interesting Agenda item and what really made me attend this month!! Following the problems we have had with CBC Planning Department over the last couple of months, I thought it might be interesting to hear what they had to say. I think you will all remember at the end of May we have lots of problems with the planning website and not being able to view applications on line. Also after the May meeting I e-mailed comments over to the department and they claimed they had not received them. I have been in touch several times since then with Sally Harrington who is heading up the project to try and sort out the department. Sally Harrington's Role is a Professional Support Service Manager and she is now working with Vincent Pearce. The aim is to try and make the website more efficient and also the department, putting new measures to achieve this. Apparently the problems we have all encountered recently are due to one management system not talking to another. However I was assured at the meeting that the new system is nearly up and running and it will be more customer friendly and will do a lot more things!! It was discussed that once the new planning site is up and running the department would provide training for those Clerks & Councillors that required it.

09/98: NEXT AGENDA ITEMS.

Little Horkesley Letter
Vernons Road
Standing Orders
Notice-board at Middle Green

09/99: DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is on the 2nd Sept 2009 at 7.15pm at Wakes Colne Village Hall, Wakes Colne
Our Chairperson Cllr Taylor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....
Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date.....

Chairman signature

